

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 MCE-00  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
INR-05 L-01 PA-01 SP-02 EUR-08 /063 W  
-----112698 202334Z /75

P R 202225Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0007  
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY  
USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 2381

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PBOR, BH, MX, UK, GT  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ON F-5E'S

REF: STATE 099039

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD RECEIVED TURNDOWN ON F-5'S TODAY  
IN BETTER HUMOR THAN I HAD EXPECTED, INDICATING TO ME THAT HE HAD  
SOME UNDERSTANDING OF REASONS BEHIND OUR DECISION AND ALSO SUG-  
GESTING THAT SOME OF THE URGENCY HAD GONE OUT OF HIS REQUEST WITH  
THE EASING OF THE BELIZE SITUATION. THIS WAS SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO  
REASSURANCE HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THAT CUBA WOULD NOT, AS HE HAD  
JUST HEARD, BE INVITED TO STATION FORCES IN BELIZE. PRESIDENT APSO  
EXPRESSED CONCERN - - WHICH I TRIED TO ALLAY -- ABOUT EFFECT IN  
GUATEMALA IF MEXICO WERE TO RECEIVE F-5'S FOLLOWING REJECTION  
OF GUATEMALAN REQUEST. ALSO, IF WE WERE NOT WILLING TO UPSET  
CURRENT BALANCE IN REGION BY INTRODUCING F-5'S, HE WOULD PIKE  
TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING ANOTHER U.S. AIRCRAFT, FOR  
EXAMPLE THE F-100, WHICH WOULD NOT UPSET THIS BALANCE BUT  
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WOULD STILL GO SOME DISTANCE TOWARD MEETING GUATEMALAN  
REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

I CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TODAY TO INFORM HIM THAT WE  
WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET HIS REQUEST FOR F-5E'S, DRAWING ON  
ALL POINTS IN REFTEL. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT, REFERRING  
TO UNEASINESS THAT THIS WOULD CAUSE AMONG HIS MILITARY PEOPLE

WHO IN PAST HAD COME TO DEPEND ON CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US, BUT WENT ON TO INDICATE SOME UNDERSTANDING OF POLICY REASONS WHICH HAD LED TO OUR DECISION AND LSO TO NOTE THAT THE ACQUISITION OF THE F-5'S DID NOT LOOM QUITE SO SERIOUSLY FOR HIM NOW AS IT HAD AT THE TIME HE HAD MADE HIS REQUEST SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITH BRITAIN OVER BELIZE HAD RECEDED. HE HAD NEVER BEEN WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC, HE SAID, ABOUT SPENDING \$30 MILLION ON F-5'S WHEN HIS COUNTRY WAS SO BADLY IN NEED OF OTHER THINGS SUCH AS HOSPITALS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THIS DEPENDED ON WHETHER THE MEXICANS WERE ALSO BEING TURNED DOWN ON F-5'S; IT WOULD BE VERY BAD IF GUATEMALA WERE BEING TURNED DOWN BUT MEXICO WERE TO RECEIVE THE PLANES. I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY MEXICAN REQUEST FOR F-5'S WAS NO LONGER OUTSTANDING.

3. HE SAID THERE WAS ONE OTHER ISSUE WHICH COULD CHANGE HIS REACTION. NOTING THAT HE HAD FELT FOR SOME TIME THAT THE DANGER OVER BELIZE HAD RECEDED, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ALARMED TO HAVE A REPORT FROM ONE OF THEIR AGENTS IN BELIZE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING OF CARIBBEAN STATES IN BELIZE DURING THE PAST WEEK WHICH HAD DISCUSSED PLANS FOR INTRODUCING FORCES FROM CUBA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES INTO BELIZE IN CONNECTION WITH BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE WHICH PRICE STILL WANTED TO BRING ABOUT BY JULY 1ST. IT WAS INTENDED, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THAT CUBA WOULD SUPPLY MORE FORCES THAN ANYONE ELSE; COUNTRIES  
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LIKE JAMAICA, BARBADOS AND GUYANA WOULD CONTRIBUTE IN A TOKEN WAY, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH FIVE POLICEMEN OR SO. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS "NOT AN OFFICIAL REPORT" BUT HE SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY IT AS HE DID NOT WANT AN ANGOLA OR ETHIOPIA HERE. HE ASKED IF I COULD FIND OUT ABOUT SUCH A MEETING AND LET HIM KNOW THE TRUE FACTS. I SAID I WOULD TRY BUT THAT I WAS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF SUCH A REPORT. IT WAS TRUE, AND PERHAPS RELEVANT TO THE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED, I SAID, THAT PRICE HAD BEEN WORKING ON A PLAN FOR A MULTILATERAL SECURITY GUARANTEE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE SEVERAL OF THE COUNTRIES HE HAD MENTIONED, BUT IT WAS CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING I HAD HEARD AND ALSO TO COMMON SENSE THAT CUBA WOULD BE INVOLVED. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THIS TO DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, AND SEEK INFORMATION I COULD PASS TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD REASSURE HIM.

4. FINALLY, PRESIDENT SAID IT WOULD STILL BE IMPORTANT FOR GUATEMALA TO UPGRADE ITS FORCE WHICH HAD LAGGED BEHIND THOSE OF ITS NEIGHBORS. HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT ABOUT NOT INTRODUCING A NEW, ADVANCED PLANE INTO THE REGION SO WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH US THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING A PLANE WHICH WOULD NOT DO THIS BUT WHICH WOULD STILL LET GUATEMALA

BALANCE THE OURAGANS IN EL SALVADOR, THE SUPER MYSTERES  
IN HONDURAS, AND THE F-80'S IN MEXICO. PERHAPS THESF-100  
WOULD BE SUCH A PLANE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WOULD HAVESIN  
MIND ACQUIRING NOT MORE THAN FIVE F-100'S WITH ONE EXTRA  
TWO-SEATER FOR TRAINING. I SAID I WOULD SUBMIT THIS IDEA  
TO WASHINGTON.

5. INCOURSE OF EXPAINING NEED FOR MODERNIZING HIS FORCES,  
PRESIDENT MENTIONED CONTINUING THREAT FROM EGP, NOTING  
THAT THERE HAD JUST BEEN A CLASH BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES  
AND EGP GUERRILLAS AT IXCAN NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER,  
RESULTING IN DEATH OF ONE GUERRILLA AND FLIGHT ACROSS THE BORDER  
OF A COUPLE OF OTHERS. HE SAID THEY HAD CAPTURED AN AUTOMATIC  
WEAPON WHICH HE ASKED AIDE TO BRING IN TO SHOW ME AND SAID  
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HE WOULD BE WRITING TO ME ABOUT THIS, ENCLOSING PICTURES AND  
DETAILS ABOUT THE WEAPON.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 MCE-00  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
INR-05 L-01 PA-01 SP-02 EUR-08 /063 W  
-----112777 202337Z /75

P R 202225Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0008  
INFO AMCONSUP BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY  
USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GUATEMAPA 2381

LIMDIS

6. I CLOSED BY COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT ON HISGOVERNMENT'S  
ACTION IN PRESSING FORWARD ON THE RATIFICATION OFSTHE AMERICAN

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION, NOW THAT CONGRESS HAD COMPLETED ITS PART OF RATIFICATION PROCESS.

7. I SHOULD NOTE PARENTHETICALLY THAT, DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF BELIZE, PRESIDENT VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD NOT YET BRIEFED PRESIDENT-ELECT LUCAS ON BELIZE BUT PLANNED TO DO SO SHORTLY AND HE HOPED THAT LUCAS WOULD SEE THE VIRTUE OF AN ACCOMMODATION WHICH WOULD GIVE GUATEMALA A SMALL PART OF SOUTHERN BELIZE IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING A SHOWDOWN WITH THE BRITISH WHICH IT WAS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO AVOID. HE COMPLAINED IN THIS CONTEXT THAT BRITISH HAD SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN CONTINUING BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD LOOKED SO PROMISING A SHORT TIME AGO.

8. ACTIONS REQUESTED: (1) PLEASE ADVISE WHAT I CAN TELL PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL SHED LIGHT ON REPORT OF MEETING OF  
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CARIBBEAN STATES IN BELIZE WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS AND POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING OF CUBAN OR OTHER FORCES IN BELIZE. (2) WE WILL ALSO NEED TO RESPOND, IN DUE COURSE, TO PRESIDENT'S REQUEST THAT WE CONSIDER PROVIDING ANOTHER PLANE, POSSIBLY THE F-100, TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE F-5 AT A LOWER LEVEL OF COMBAT CAPABILITY. THE SAME REASONS WHICH LED EMBASSY TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST FOR F-5'S WOULD APPLY AS WELL TO THE F-100 OR OTHER COMPARABLE AIRCRAFT, AND I HOPE THAT PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION OVERCOMING ONE OF OUR MAIN OBJECTIONS TO SALE OF F-5'S WILL NOW MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MEET HIM HALF-WAY.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ON F-5E'S  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, PBOR, BH, MX, UK, GT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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